

Historic, Archive Document

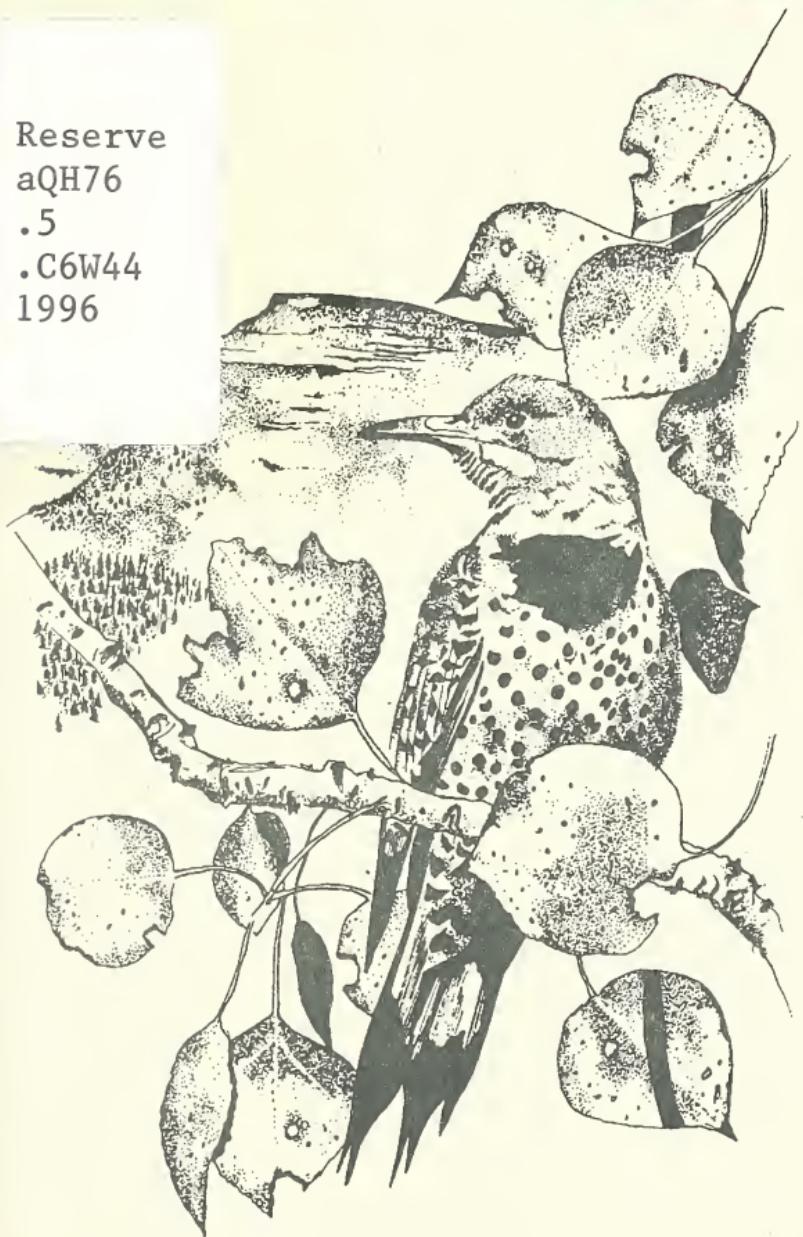
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Welcome to Bear River

GPO
Repository
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Program

Wildlife Habitats

Reserve
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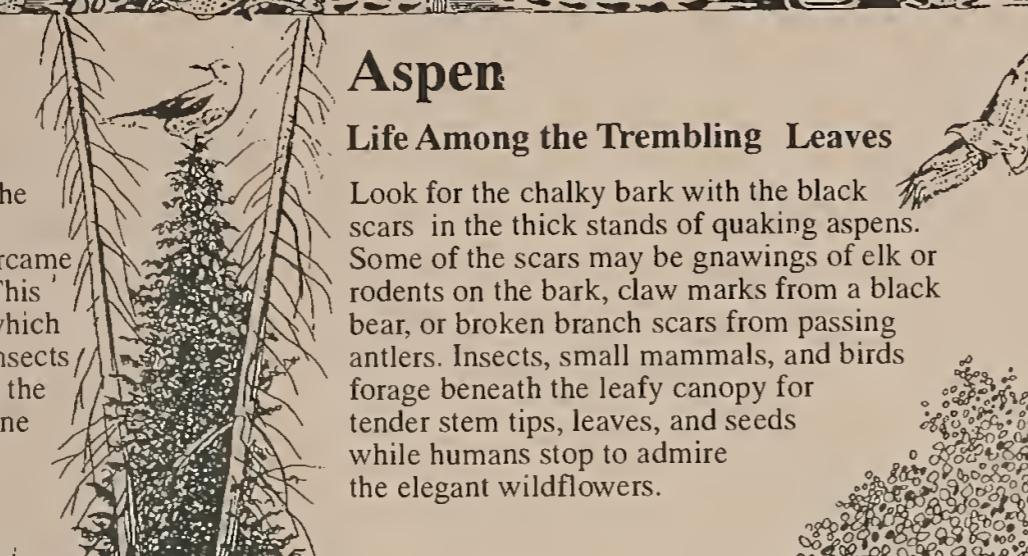
Yampa Ranger District
Medicine Bow-Routt
National Forest



Spruce/Fir

Wanted: Dead or Alive!

Notice the silver "snags" standing in the darkest part of the landscape, remnant ghosts of when the spruce beetles overcame the mature forests here in the 1940s. This natural process left these dead trees, which are now home to chickadees and the insects on which they feed. After snags fall to the forest floor in the recovering forest, pine martens jump from log to log in the deadfall, squirrels chatter in the new generation of spruce, and Clark's nutcrackers call from the tree tops.



Aspen

Life Among the Trembling Leaves

Look for the chalky bark with the black scars in the thick stands of quaking aspens. Some of the scars may be gnawings of elk or rodents on the bark, claw marks from a black bear, or broken branch scars from passing antlers. Insects, small mammals, and birds forage beneath the leafy canopy for tender stem tips, leaves, and seeds while humans stop to admire the elegant wildflowers.



Riparian

A Meandering Ribbon of Life

The Bear River, known down river as the Yampa, is lined with a dense, lush growth that thrives in the wet soils found near the river banks. Wildlife is drawn to this luxurious habitat to feed, water, nest or travel along the winding ribbon of green. Watch for sparrows and warblers nesting in the willow branches, beavers working on their dams, or coyotes hunting for mice in the thick sedges.



Sagebrush

A Place in the Sun

Silver-green colored sagebrush and other sun-loving plants sink their deep roots into the dry, south-facing hillside, searching for water. Try to find the animal trails crisscrossing these steep slopes. Elk find forage on these hillsides, which hold little snow in the winter. Insects and seed-eating birds find ample food in the summer among the grasses and shrubs.

You are about to embark on a journey through the Bear River Recreation Area, 10,000 acres of hiking trails, fishing spots and wildlife habitat. As you make your trip, be sure to note the changes in the landscape. You will pass slopes dotted with sagebrush, groves of aspen trees, thick forests of Englemann spruce and subalpine fir, and lush riparian areas. In the distance you will see the rising cliffs of the Flat Tops capped with alpine meadows.

Wild animals find homes in these contrasting environments. These habitats are a result of the different temperatures, altitude, soil types, and the amount of sun and water that each area receives.

Habitat is home where wild animals find food, water, shelter from the weather, hiding spots from predators and places to raise their young. Each plant and animal has specific needs that determine the type of habitat in which it can survive.

A sharing of the natural resources allows both wildlife and humans to meet their needs. The wildlife habitats found in the forests and meadows of the Bear River Area provide wood, water and food for humans. Through our combined efforts we can ensure that the natural world continues to be an environment enjoyed by all species of life.

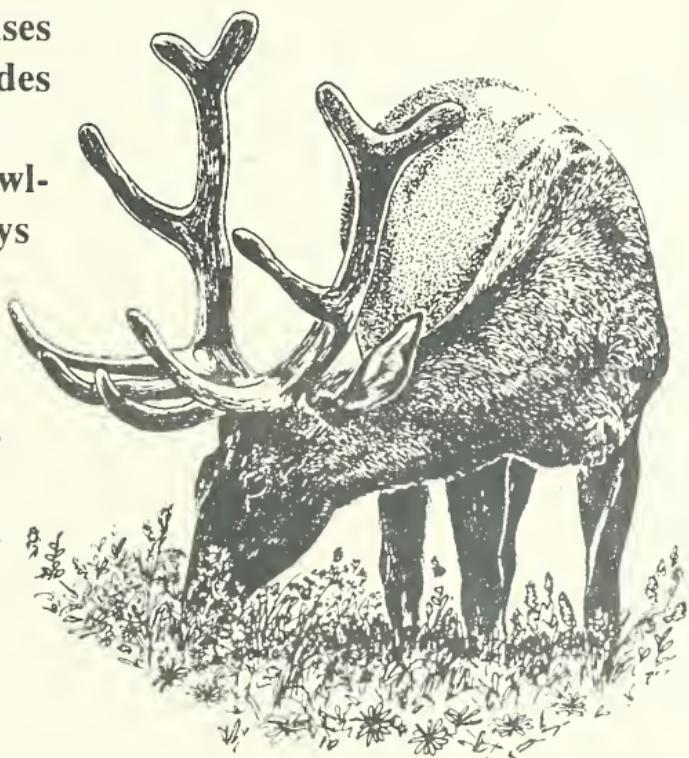
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While you are watching...

Spring and summer bring the wonders of new life. Lend wildlife a helping hand by avoiding nests and animals with young. Observe wildlife behaving naturally. Feeding human food to wild animals can harm them and endanger you.

**Binoculars, cameras
with long lenses
and field guides
open up new
vistas in knowl-
edge and ways
of seeing.**

**Take notice
of animal
signs such as
scat, tracks
and browsed
shrubs and
plants.**



**For further information to help you enjoy
the area's wildlife, contact local sporting
goods outlets or the following:**



Yampa Ranger District

Box 7,
300 Roselawn
Yampa, Colorado 80483
(970) 638-4516



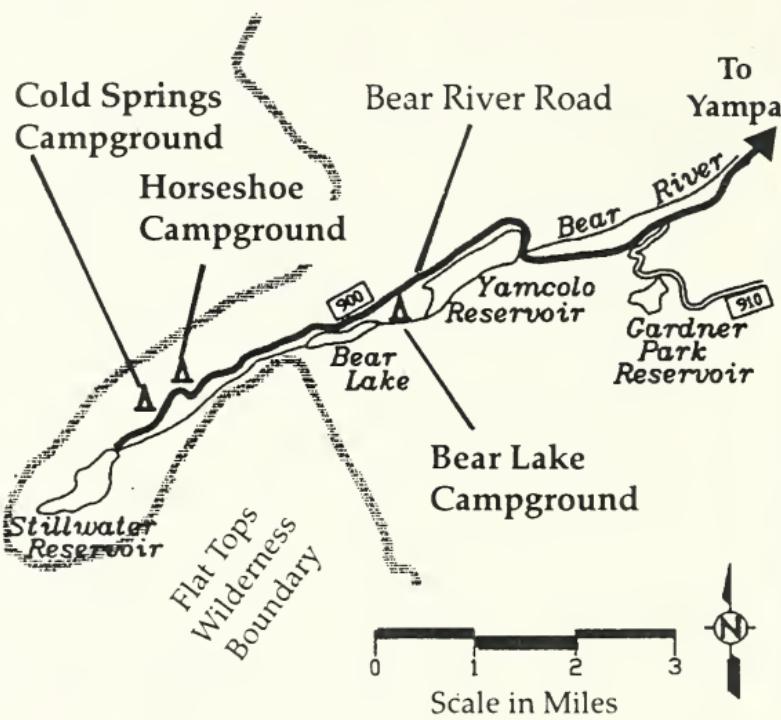
Colorado Division of Wildlife

(970) 248-7175 or
(970) 725-3557



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Bear River Corridor



Remember that you are sharing this land with many other people, plants and animals. To preserve the beauty and vitality of this land, please help us by observing the following:

*** Take extreme caution with fire.**

Never leave a fire unattended.

*** Drive slowly to keep dust and noise down.**

You will have a better chance of seeing wildlife.

*** Pack out everything you pack in.**

Wildlife can dig up buried trash.

*** Camp in designated sites.**

*** Respect private land by staying on the roadway.**

Land between Yampa and the National Forest boundary is privately owned.